



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Rawlins Field Office

P.O. Box 2407 (1300 North Third Street)  
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407

In Reply Refer To:  
1790

March 1, 2006

Re: Scoping Notice - Hatfield 3D  
Seismic Survey Project  
Environmental Assessment

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to prepare an environmental analysis (EA) for a proposed geophysical project to be known as the Hatfield 3D Seismic Survey.

Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation and Dawson Geophysical Co. have filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, for a seismic survey project on public, fee, and state lands within Carbon County, Wyoming. The proposed project is located within Townships 19 and 20 North; Ranges 87, 88, and 89 West; 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

A scoping notice has been prepared for your review and information, both as an introduction to the proposed project and as a review of the basic procedures we intend to follow in the preparation of the EA. The scoping process is an opportunity for you to participate in the earliest phase of environmental assessment for the Hatfield 3D Seismic Survey. We encourage your input and comments on the project. Information and comments you provide will enable us to assess alternatives for consideration in the environmental assessment.

We are conducting scoping for 30 days. If you are interested in participating in the scoping process, we request that you respond by supplying your written or e-mailed comments or concerns about the proposed activity by March 31, 2006. Please submit your comments to:

Tom Foertsch, Physical Scientist  
Bureau of Land Management  
Rawlins Field Office  
P.O. Box 2407  
1300 North Third Street  
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

E-mail: rawlins\_wymail@blm.gov

A link to the Scoping Notice will be posted on the Rawlins Field Office homepage at [www.wy.blm.gov/rfo/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/rfo/). Your response is important and will be considered in the environmental analysis process. If you do respond, we will consider your comments in the analysis for the project. Please note that public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of the respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentially. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this plainly at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you again for your interest in this process. If you have any questions regarding the project, your role, or our responsibilities, please contact Tom Foertsch, Project Lead, at the address shown above or phone (307) 328-4368.

Sincerely,



Field Manager

Enclosure

**PUBLIC SCOPING STATEMENT  
HATFIELD 3D SEISMIC SURVEY  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Whiting Oil & Gas Corporation (Whiting) and Dawson Geophysical Company (Dawson) have filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, for a geophysical project on public, fee, and state lands within Carbon County, Wyoming. The proposed project is located in multiple sections within Townships 19 and 20 North; Ranges 87, 88, and 89 West; 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian, Wyoming. The proposed project begins approximately six miles south of Rawlins, Wyoming.

The area for the project encompasses approximately 82 square miles, of which approximately 33 square miles are public lands, 46 square miles are privately owned land, and 3 square miles are state lands. Those portions of the project occurring on private or state land are not subject to BLM authorization and would be permitted separately.

The seismic survey proposed action would use source energy generated by both vibroseis vehicles and shot hole methods. Vibroseis will be the primary method (60%), with buggy-drilled shot holes and helicopter portable shot holes (40%) used for areas not suited for vibroseis. Four buggy mounted vibrators (vibroseis) per source station will be utilized. Terrain will dictate the use of vibrators, buggy drills, and helicopter portable drills.

Access within the project area will utilize existing roads and trails, when possible. There will be, however, required cross-country travel in order to access source locations. All-terrain vehicles will be utilized to access the source and receiver stations. A helicopter will be utilized to deploy and pick up recording equipment, to minimize off-road vehicular traffic.

The receiver station interval would be 220 feet, with lines 880 feet apart. The source station intervals would be 311 feet, with source lines 1,320 feet apart.

Staging areas will be located on private or state land if possible. No permanent facilities will be constructed on the project. Cultural and sensitive resource sites will be avoided.

Shot hole plugging will be conducted in accordance with the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission stipulations. All equipment, flagging, stakes, trash, etc., will be removed as the project proceeds. In addition, a final cleanup and repair of any damaged areas will be done upon completion of the project.

It is anticipated that operations would begin in the summer of 2006 and last approximately 100 days.

**RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS**

**Great Divide Resource Management Plan (GDRMP)** - The GDRMP (November 8, 1990) directs the management of BLM-administered lands within the analysis area. The objective for management of geophysical exploration, as stated in the GDRMP, "is to provide opportunity for exploration of mineral resources and collection of geophysical data, while protecting resource values."

**Use Authorizations** - An approved Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Operations is subject to the Terms and Conditions for a Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Exploration. Other conditions of approval to protect important resources may be added to the authorization if analysis proves such measures would further reduce environmental impact.

## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**

On reviewing the proposal, the BLM has determined that an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared. The impact analysis presented in the EA will result in one of three outcomes, as determined by the BLM, either: 1) the proposed project would not result in significant impacts and a Decision Record with a Finding of No Significant Impact (DR/FONSI) could be signed (which would allow the project to be implemented); 2) the project, as proposed, would result in significant impacts and would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); or 3) no action would be approved under this proposal.

For this project, the BLM has determined that scoping activities will be conducted prior to the preparation of an EA:

- to determine reasonable development alternatives to be considered in the document
- to identify issues of concern related to the proposed project
- to determine the depth and range of analyses for issues addressed in the document

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

## **IDENTIFIED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

The following issues and concerns have been identified to-date. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather to serve as a starting point for public input. Once all issues and concerns have been gathered through scoping and BLM consideration of the project, corresponding resource disciplines will be identified to conduct analysis for individual issues and concerns.

- potential increased traffic and associated impacts to existing state, county, and BLM roads
- potential effects upon wildlife within the analysis area
- potential impacts to riparian and ground water resources
- potential impacts to sensitive soils within the project area
- potential impacts to hunting areas and other recreation including the Rim Lake BLM Recreation Site and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- potential impacts to cultural and historical resources within the analysis area including the Overland Trail
- potential impacts to sensitive plants
- restoration of disturbed areas and control of nonnative plants

## **TIMING NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS**

Government agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to be considered, issues or concerns that should be assessed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure that the analysis process is comprehensive.

*Scoping Statement – Hatfield 3D Seismic Survey Environmental Assessment*

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After a 30-day scoping period is completed and the EA is prepared, a decision regarding authorization will be made by the Rawlins Field Office.

The scoping period for this project ends on March 31, 2006. Please submit your comments to:

Tom Foertsch, Physical Scientist  
Bureau of Land Management  
Rawlins Field Office  
1300 North Third Street  
P.O. Box 2407  
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

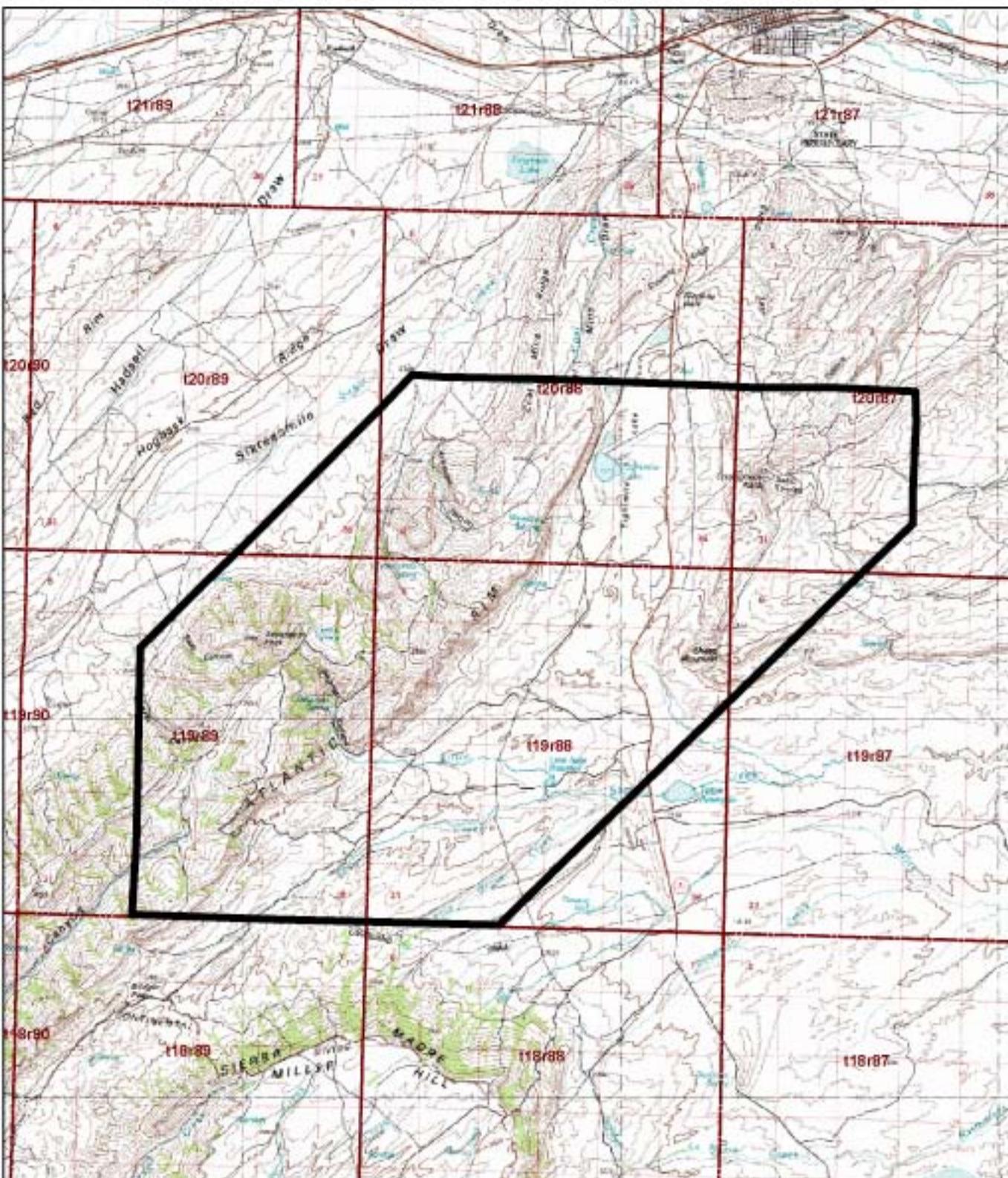
E-mail: rawlins\_wymail@blm.gov

Please refer to the Hatfield 3D Seismic Survey in your response.

**REFERENCES CITED**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management. 1990. Great Divide Resource Area Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. Prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming. BLM-WY-PT-91-010-4410. 74 pp.

# HATFIELD 3D SEISMIC SURVEY



0 1.5 3 5 Miles



The BLM cannot guarantee the accuracy of these data